

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06

DRC-01 L-03 /075 W

----- 010504

R 040823Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6808  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2578

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ETRD, FI

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: ACCEPTANCE OF VISBY AMENDMENTS  
TO BRUSSELS CONVENTION (HAGUE RULES ON BILLS OF LADING)

REF: STATE 190603

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF  
TRADE (MOT) SOURCES CONFIRM THAT FINNISH LEGISLATIVE  
ACTION ON VISBY AMENDMENTS IS DELAYED BECAUSE OF  
NEED TO AMEND DOMESTIC SHIPPING LAW. LATTER SOURCE  
ADDED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO PRESSING NEED TO  
HURRY RATIFICATION PROCEDURES AND FINLAND WOULD AWAIT ACTION  
OF SWEDEN AND OTHER COUNTRIES BEFORE PROCEEDING. THERE  
IS NO ESTIMATE OF WHEN FINLAND WILL SUBMIT TO  
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PARLIAMENT, LET ALONE RATIFY, VISBY AMENDMENTS.

2. INTERNALLY, GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE FOR SHIPPING LEGISLATION IS NOW STUDYING WHAT CHANGES MUST BE MADE TO SHIPPING LAW. INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE READY IN A WEEK OR TWO. IF ACCEPTABLE, BILL TO AMEND WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT WITH VIEW TO PERMITTING NEW RULES ON BILLS OF LADING TO APPLY BETWEEN NORDIC COUNTRIES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1974. NEW RULES, ACCORDING TO MOT SOURCE, WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH RULES OF OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES AS WELL AS PROPOSED VISBY AMENDMENTS.

3. APPARENT FINNISH DESIRE TO HAVE NEW RULES ON BILLS OF LADING APPLY INITIALLY ONLY TO NORDIC COUNTRIES IS DUE TO FACT PRESENT RULES ARE INADEQUATE IN NORDIC TRADE AND FACT NORWEGIANS ARE IN A HURRY TO HAVE FINNS AMEND THEIR RULES.

4. MOT SOURCE ALSO SAID THERE IS GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT RATIFICATION OF VISBY AMENDMENTS WILL BE COORDINATED WITH OTHER NORDIC AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE RATIFICATION MIGHT NOT OCCUR UNTIL 1976.  
KREHBIEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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